

• C o u n t e r p o i s e •

The Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

Volume XLXI

May 2010

Number 5

50

YEAR Anniversary
ARCEC

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon meets every 2nd Thursday at 7:00 pm at the First Lutheran Church of El Cajon. The address is 867 South Lincoln Ave. Next meeting: May 13, 2010 7:00 pm

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All Official written communication is to be submitted to:

A.R.C.E.C. P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

The Counterpoise is a publication of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). It is published once monthly and contributions are accepted from officers and members of the club. We also encourage input from members of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon. Opinions expressed are solely that of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). Articles may be submitted either by e-mail or mail to the editor.

Paul Rios at:

WA6BGScouterpoise@cox.net or by post
12207 Vahalla Dr. Lakeside CA. 92040

The Deadline is Sunday after the General Meeting.

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

Web Site: <http://www.wa6bgs.org>

Counterpoise E-Mail address

WA6BGScouterpoise@cox.net

23.9h



Next Meeting
Program: "DX Expeditions"
Speaker: Wild Bill, WB6BFG

September Meeting!!!
Gordon West , WB6NOA
VHF - UHF Tropo Ducting to Hawaii

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon is a 501 (c) 7 nonprofit

2010 Officers

President	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Vice-President	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
Secretary	KC6TBG	Ann Rios	593-9445
Treasurer	K16TTF	Joseph Matterson	

2010 Board of Directors

Affiliated Clubs	AE6AV	Larry Plummer	460-1107
Antenna Parties	AF6MX	Carl Cookson	
Instructor	AE6QW	Gordon Shackelford	561-6323
Net Manager	KG6TDP	Mike Oberbauer	444-9090
Public Service	N6NKJ	Rich Beisigl	444-5465
Elmer	AD6UK	Nick Prodanovich	929-1225
Past President	KG6JCW	Mike "Stogle" Panger	263-4439

2010 Standing Committees

Bylaws	KC6TBG	Ann Rios	593-9445
Club Attire	K6PKS	Paul Schmidt	733-2284
Counterpoise Editor	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Education	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
EOC H2O District	N6NKJ	Rich Beisigl	444-5465
Estate Sales	N6JOJ	Tom Myrick	449-3547
Field Day	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
Health & Welfare	AF6BC	Floyd Lang	697-8655
Historian	OPEN		
Membership	KC6TBG	Ann Rios	593-9445
Photographer	K16EEL	Bridget Rios	
Post Mistress	KC6TBG	Ann Rios	593-9445
Prizes	AF6BC	Floyd Lang	697-8655
Public Relations	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
SANDARC Delegate	K5WFW	Len Fulbright	258-1322
Social Chair		Polo Navarro	328-6209
Swap Meet	N6JOJ	Tom Myrick	449-3547
Technical	W2IRI	Bob Boehme	448-4728
Ticket Lady	K16EEK	Lisie Rios	
WA6BGS Trustee	AE6CQ	Michael Martak	562-6477
WAMO	K16EEK	Lisie Rios	
Web Master	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Welcome	K16EEL	Bridget Rios	

Staff and Writers

KC6QLS	Paul	Editor
N6OPH	Mike	Vice President
KO4QT	Steve	Where is the Weed Patch
KC6TBG	Ann	Meeting Minutes
	Monica	PIO City of El Cajon
K16EEK	Lisie	WAMO
K16EEK	Lisie	Jokes
N6NKJ	Rich	Amateur Radio at Large
AZ6CW	Morris	Chicken Noodle Soup
WA6MHZ	Pat	Crest Radio Museum
K16EEL	Bridget	Photos

SANTEE DRIVE-IN SWAP MEET

10990 Woodside Ave., North
FOR INFORMATION, CALL 449-SWAP
Ham Radio, Computers, Electronics
ACRES & ACRES OF BARGAINS
1st & 3rd Saturday of the Month
GATES OPEN 6:30 AM

From The President

Paul KC6QLS



I would like to thank Steve, AD6VI our ARRL Section Manager, for speaking at our last meeting. The T-Shirt Contest was done, and the T-Shirt idea was Steve, KO4QT with artwork by KC6QLS. Sometimes a joint effort works best.

At the meeting I received two boxes of old Counterpoise's and some photos. I'm scanning them and have placed some of the Counterpoise on the website; all of the year 1990 and 1969 are done and some of 1988. They are on the Counterpoise page and you have to scroll down to see them. It's cool to see the progression from the older newsletters, hand drawn graphics, and typed by an old Royal Typewriter. We take computers for granted now and you can see some of the first Word Processor ones too.

Is everyone ready for the big one? The county is still shaking here and getting reports it is also shaking in Yuma and Imperial Valley. Get all your emergency kits up to date and rotate your food stock. Charge up your HT and make sure your family is ready.

I would like to say thanks to John Austin, WA6RLV, Alex Groza, WB6DTR and Gary Richardson, N6LRV for going up the hill and fixing the Club's Repeaters. The 2 meter is in great shape. The 440 needed a new channel crystal and Alex got one sent to him the other day, and they went back up the hill and fixed the 440 repeater. The 220 repeater will need to be replaced with a newer unit. Bob, W2IRI rebuilt the 220 unit after the 2003 fire. He did a great job for what he had to work with. We have to see what it will take to have him build a new 200 box for us.

73

Paul Rios, KC6QLS
President

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

General Membership Meeting
8 April 2010



The General Membership Meeting of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon was called to order by the Club President Paul, KC6QLS at 7:07 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance, everyone was welcomed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS by President Paul KC6QLS:

- Virgil Pattin, K7VP is our Sgt. of Arms. We have a lot to cover tonight.
- ARCEC is a 501 (c) 7 Non-Profit.
- A Hat was passed for our Field Day Food Fund and \$95.00 was collected tonight.
- T-Shirt Logo Contest ends tonight and all entries were submitted.
- Paul Schmidt, K6PKS announced SURF's 50 Mile Race at Boulder Oaks at 6:00 a.m. on 5-15-10; will use RACES Repeater and can work out of vehicles.
- Elmer Chair will have activities at the break.
- WAMO Chair, Lisie KI6EEK, is set up and ready to go. Submit WAMO Lists to the email address on the Club Website or to the P.O. Box to the attention of the WAMO Chair. To date, no additional WAMO Lists have been submitted.
- Joseph, KI6TTF introduced Visitors.

SECRETARY'S REPORT was reviewed and approved as presented tonight and in the Counterpoise posted on the Website.

TREASURER Joseph, KI6TTF gave his report. It was approved as read and filed for audit.

Prize Table Chair announced the items for this evening.

SANDARC ISSUES: Per our last meeting, Len K5WFW our SANDARC Delegate, took the ARCEC Proposal to SANDARC for a motion for SANDARC to spend no more than \$2,000.00 to replace old Tech Books in the libraries with new Tech Books. The club voted tonight on this proposal, and it passed with no one opposing the motion. The President instructed both ARCEC Delegates to report back to SANDARC at the next meeting and

for both Delegates to vote on behalf of the ARCEC in favor of this motion.

Also, at the SANDARC meeting, Marcia DeRuntz, KI6FIX presented a proposal regarding putting on a HandiHams Camp and requested \$500.00 from SANDARC for this purpose. The club voted tonight on this proposal, and it passed with no one opposing the motion. The President instructed both ARCEC Delegates to report back to SANDARC at the next meeting and for both Delegates to vote on behalf of the ARCEC in favor of this motion.

The VE sites in El Cajon and South Bay need new Team Leaders; if you are interested, contact Mike, N6OPH.

Vice President, Mike, N6OPH introduced the speaker for this evening Steve Early, AD6VI, our ARRL Section Manager, who spoke on the "State of the ARRL in the San Diego Section". Steve presented statistics on the number of HAMS in San Diego; announced that he has been elected for another 2 year term as Section Manager by default as no one ran against him; discussed ARRL position opportunities in San Diego; advocated for CERT and HAMS to work together in our local communities to provide effective and efficient services during emergencies and disasters; discussed changes he would like to see in the San Diego Section; announced ARRL sponsored classes and encouraged others to step up to the plate and participate in teaching the One Day Tech Classes; discussed upcoming opportunities for clubs to get involved in community events, many of which the ARCEC is already participating in; suggested activities the ARRL would like to participate in; encouraged clubs to become more active and participate at the San Diego Fair to promote Amateur Radio; and took suggestions and questions from the club for further consideration and perhaps implementation.

After Steve's talk, the Elmer Chair, Nick, AD6UK announced that during the break, he will be in the back room for a short discussion on licensing; talking, privacy and safety issues over the air, and to address any other questions and concerns. Anyone is welcome to attend.



Continued Page 4

Minutes Continued

Prior to the break, there was a vote on the T-Shirt Contest, and the winner was the mountain and tent scene.

After the break the business meeting continued.

PRESIDENT Paul, KC6QLS Reported that the ARCEC covers the SANDARC San Diego Fair Booth on the first weekend the fair opens in June and volunteers are needed for 10:00 – 2:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. shifts. We are also scheduled to do the Kids Best Booth at the fair on June 19, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Please volunteer on as many days as you can at the SANDARC Booth as volunteers are needed for the entire 21 day run of the fair. Check the SANDARC website at sandarc.org, and contact Paul at kc6qls@cox.net to sign up. Paul reported on the ARCEC's participation in the Lakeside Horse Club Event, and there will be a report in the Counterpoise. The Counterpoise will go out tonight. The Library Display will be at the Serra Mesa Library through April 30, 2010.

VICE PRESIDENT Mike, N6OPH reported that the speaker for May will be Wild Bill on DX Expeditions; the June meeting will be on Field Day; the T-Shirt logo will be the mountain and tent scene; T-Shirts will be \$10.00 each and all orders must be prepaid by May 13, 2010; to order a T-Shirt, fill out the form on the back table and return it with payment to Mike.

NET MANAGER Mike, KG6TDP reported that he is announcing the upcoming club events on the nets, and there were 16 check-ins on the last net.

EDUCATION REPORT by Mike, N6OPH that the General Class was cancelled due to lack of students.



MEMBERSHIP REPORT Bridget, KI6EEL announced that we had a total of 70 in attendance tonight consisting of 65 members and 5 visitors.

PUBLIC SERVICE CHAIRMAN Rich, N6NKJ reported on the Wild Fire Training Classes.

ELMER CHAIR Nick, AD6UK reported that the class during the break went well. Send your ideas for topics to his email address listed in the Counterpoise. If you can help Elmer regarding specific tasks, please let him know this and your availability.

SOCIAL CHAIRMAN Polo thanked KG6VVO for donating refreshments tonight. Volunteers to help in the kitchen are needed for Field Day; contact Polo or Mike, N6OPH if you can help. Also, please contribute to the Donut Food Fund Can so that we can continue to have refreshments at our meetings. Refreshments are funded totally by contributions.

There being no further business before the General Membership, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Ann Rios, KC6TBG
Secretary
Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

Extra Class Schedule

Sept.	14
Sept.	21
Sept.	28
Oct.	12
Oct.	19
Oct.	26



Membership Report

Ann KC6TBG



Congratulations to all who have upgraded your license!

If you have upgraded your license within the past year, please contact me at kc6tbg@cox.net or see me at the meeting so that I can update your information on the ARCEC Roster.

New Members

James Ostrich, KJ6EYU	WAMO# 1830
Guy Laronche, KJ6ECW	WAMO# 1831
James Bishop, KJ6FDW	WAMO# 1832
Dale Arrigo, KI6WIU	WAMO# 1833
Jeannette Arrigo, KI6WIV	WAMO# 1834
Chuck Dullum, KJ6ECY	WAMO# 1835
John Boccia, No Call	WAMO# 1836

Welcome Back Returning Members

Tom Walker, KD6JXR	WAMO# 1034
Robert Daily, KG6EVA	WAMO# 1593
William Geiler, KE6QVA	WAMO# 1265
Don Dodson, KI6GZK	WAMO# 1735

All Members are welcome to participate on all ARCEC weekly Nets. The WAMO Net is an opportunity to meet new members, collect WAMO's and practice your communication skills. Please join us. For more information on the dates and times, see page 6 of this Newsletter.

The 2010 ARCEC Roster is for club use only. However, please do not use this club roster to contact club members at the telephone numbers and addresses listed on the roster for the purpose of working a WAMO. The Rules for working WAMO are listed on the website and must be followed in order to receive WAMO Certificates. Also, copies of the WAMO Rules are available at club meetings.

73, Ann, KC6TBG

Individual Dues Membership: \$18.00 per year(\$1.50 per month):

January	\$ 18.00	July	\$ 9.00
February	\$ 16.50	August	\$ 7.50
March	\$ 15.00	September	\$ 6.00
April	\$ 13.50	October	\$ 4.50
May	\$ 12.00	November	\$ 3.00
June	\$ 10.50	December	\$ 1.50 *

*plus \$18.00 for the following year

Family Dues Membership: \$30.00 per year (\$2.50 per month):

January	\$ 30.00	July	\$ 15.00
February	\$ 27.50	August	\$ 12.50
March	\$ 25.00	September	\$10.00
April	\$ 22.50	October	\$ 7.50
May	\$ 20.00	November	\$ 5.00
June	\$ 17.50	December	\$ 2.50 *

*plus \$30.00 for the following year

Ann, KC6TBG
Membership Chair



Field Day T Shirt Logo 2010

From The Vice President N6OPH Mike



First, I would like to thank Steve Early, AD6VI for his presentation on the ARRL San Diego Section update. There appear to be a great many things that still need to be addressed within the San Diego Section and Steve is right on top of them. Once again, thanks Steve!

Our speaker for the May General Membership Meeting will be "wild" Bill, WB6BFG. He is currently on a 4000 mile RV trip with his wife Ellen, N6UWW. When he arrives here in San Diego, he will talk about DX expeditions. This should be a very interesting talk as the HF bands start to improve and we here more DX stations on the bands.

Of course, June will feature a discussion on our club's Field Day event. I will be there to moderate the discussion.

Gordon West, WB6NOA will talk about tropo ducting to Hawaii during our September General Membership Meeting. We can always expect an informational and entertaining talk from any appearance of his.

Don't be bashful, go ahead and get on any one of our numerous nets. You will see them listed elsewhere here in the Counterpoise. That would include the WAMO Nets on Wednesday and Saturday, Donut Net, the Frito Corn Chip Net, the Wide Open Net and much more.

This is my second month as your club's Vice President, and as is traditional with our club VP, I'm looking at a suitable RV so that I can follow in the footsteps of Steve and Gary.

We will be scheduling an antenna party in May to pre-assemble and test the antennae for Field Day. We also test the generator at this time with a load test and overall running condition. As I write this column, the generator is still in the shop for repairs. It doesn't seem to put out the correct voltage output and this is the second year in a row. So we are taking a hard look and making the repairs so that we will be back in shape for Field Day. This year all reservations for cabins,



Continued on Page 16

WA6BGS Nets

Mike Oberbauer:	KG6TDP	Net Manger
Mike Oberbauer:	KG6TDP	Net Controller
Frito	N6WKB	Wide Open Nets
Axel	KI6RRN	Donut Net

WAMO NETS:

Wednesday and Saturday Nights

8:00 p.m. local time 7:45 "Early Checkins"

This is an open net and all are invited. Early check-ins will be taken.

Donut Net:

Monday, 7:00 p.m.

Bring your Donuts. GOT MILK?

Wide Open Ham Net:

Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

Frito's Corn Chip Net:

Thursday, 7:00 p.m. on 28.435 Mhz USB

Nets held on Club's WA6BGS Repeaters System

RX 147.420 (146.475) 107.2 PL

RX 224.080 – 107.2 PL

RX 445.900 – 107.2 PL

Don't miss it. All members welcome.

WAMO means Worked All Members Only.

The purpose of WAMO is to encourage people to people communication between club members and to publicize the name of the club among fellow amateurs.

Calendar of Events May 2010

May	1:	Swap Meet, Santee Drive In, 6:30 am
May	1:	T-Hunt, Grossmont College lot, 6:00 pm
May	4:	Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
May	8:	Pacific Crest Trail 50
May	13:	General Meeting, 7:00 pm
May	15:	Tower Trailer Training
May	16:	Antenna Party
May	18:	Counterpoise Dead Line
May	22:	WA6L, John Antenna Party "No Rain?"

Upcoming Event Dates

May	13:	Field Day T-Shirt orders must be in.
June	11:	Del Mar Fair ARCEC Booth day 1
June	25/27	ARRL Field Day 2010
Sept.	17:	ARRL SW Convention San Diego
Oct.	9:	Fire Station 6 Open House
Oct.	30:	Borrego Springs Parade

ARCEC Membership Form

Please print clearly, complete all info and return to Membership Chair with your payment:

- ☐ Individual Membership \$18.00 ☐ Family Membership \$30.00
☐ Counterpoise by MAIL add \$18.00 ☐ Counterpoise by Email or Website FREE

Name: _____ Class of License: _____

Other Family Members and Calls: _____

Address: _____

Call: _____ WAMO #: _____ Birthday: _____

Phone #: _____ Email address: _____

Check One: ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal ☐ Returning Member

*If you are a returning member, you will keep your original WAMO # _____

Check One: I give my permission to publish my info on the Club Roster coming out ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no, state exactly what information you do not want published: _____

Check all the apply: ARRL Member ARES Member Other _____

Would you like to be in the Counterpoise Spotlight? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Would you like to be a member of The East County Response Team? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Mail with payment to: Membership Chair, ARCEC, P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

***To be eligible for the drawing, must be postmarked no later than December 1 of the year.*

REV 9-2-2009



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The Counterpoise is also online in FULL COLOR. Check it out and the club's website at: www.wa6bgs.org

Get your advanced copy by e-mail. I will send it out in .PDF format the night it goes to print. E-mail me and let me know that you would like a copy. Size of file maybe up to 1.5 mb at times.

Computer Roster Available

Want the roster sent to you via e-mail? Send an e-mail to Ann Rios KC6TBG, and she will send you the database back as an attachment. She uses Excel, but may be able to convert to various formats if asked. Send your request to 619-593-9445 or KC6TBG@cox.net

FUN PAGE

Birthday

May	1	1612	KG6KLM	Felly	Parel
May	2	634	KB6MLS	William	Fuller
May	3	1741	NO CALL	Arvilla	Johnson
May	7	1705	KG6IZW	Kristine	Eyer
May	10	988	K7OY	Maynard	Skidmore
May	10	1753	KI6IOH	James	Glasser
May	11	1234	KE6HBQ	Greg	Richard
May	11	1767	KI6SYO	Joe	McGerald
May	12	1000	KB6WQO	Carol	Myrick (L)
May	14	729	KA6RLX	Al	Gentz (L)
May	14	1156	KD6ZNU	Shirley	Boehme (L)
May	19	333	WB6DSP	Dave	Johnson
May	20	1577	K6FQR	Allen	Guinup
May	22	1732	KG6STY	William	Kukuk
May	25	530	NV6E	Herald	Sawdy (L)
May	30	100	K6CR	Cliff	Richardson
May	30	1728	KI6HRH	Ken	Cohen
May	30	1768	KJ6GRL	Ruth	Pattin



Word Search

M K J M E A S U R E H M T U R R C
 W T N E M F L E T G M G P E K O U
 M U T F Q E T C M H U J Z A U T J
 A Q J K T E K E A W Q Y P N G C P
 T W M U M E M L T G L U T T W U L
 C T J P T D H E K A W E G E A D 2
 H F I 2 G L W B N T R H M N B N 5
 I D H 5 W I F A G P T W P N T I 9
 N D W 9 Q N C T O H K H C A P K M
 G O I A H E G I W M J E W S K J W
 A N I R K M S O R U Q L T M T M A
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 K E P D E C Q S K A U P O W M A H
 F T L W A N T E N A A I R K I G U
 J 5 2 B F O N I H F J T D T L 2 5 9
 F U 9 K A W L O O Q J T E U Q L S
 T A 5 J H C J M C N K H Q G T H P

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|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ANALYZER | <input type="checkbox"/> DIRECTION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ANTENNAS | <input type="checkbox"/> ELEMENT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BNC | <input type="checkbox"/> FEEDLINE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CABLE | <input type="checkbox"/> HELIAX |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CELEBRATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUCTOR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CIRCUIT | <input type="checkbox"/> LOADING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CONNECTION | <input type="checkbox"/> MATCHING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COUNTERPOISE | <input type="checkbox"/> MEASURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DIPMETER | <input type="checkbox"/> PL259 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DIPOLE | <input type="checkbox"/> PORT |

Brain Thinkers

- 2 = S. of a C. 2 sides of a Coin
 4 = H. of the A. 4 Horsemen of the Apocalypse
 8 = L. on an O. 8 Legs on a Octopus
 ----- This Months -----
 1 = if by L.
 3 = S. in a T.
 4 = Q in a G.

Last Months Word Search

Q C O Z D W N U A H C E R P E L
 F A N T A S Y T Y K O Y E I L W
 W T U H R U K R W T H W K O E K
 T J K J Y T R I H S T K A N C Y
 U N A I R T S E U Q E U E O T J
 I C O M T J U U Y U S Y P S R T
 U W N J R K J H R W T K S P U
 K T O P E R A T O R S R W H C E
 E Y S T W R U H Y E W T H E A R
 N G P A R A D E J Y S U J R L E
 W N H Y O W J W H A T K U E W H
 O I E L M E R R S L S S R W Y P
 Y R W J U J H K D O O F K Y S
 W E E D P A T C H Z S Y K U A O
 K E N W O O D H S Z K N J Z E M
 O M W H Y R W S E D O C Q L S T
 K S R U H J H R Y J H R T S U A

ASK AN ELMER

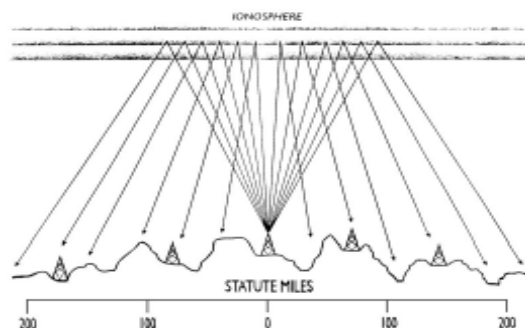
The Cloud warmer AKA NVIS

During WWT II on D-Day successful communications between the Operational HQ at Uxbridge, forward control aboard the USS Ancon and the landing parties was achieved by using horizontal antennas with a Near Vertical Incident Skywave (NVIS). These NVIS antennas were adopted by both NATO and German operators after experiencing poor results with verticals

NVIS antennas are the opposite of DX (long-distance) they are designed for local communications 0-250 miles and utilize sky wave path between stations instead of ground wave or surface-wave. Last month we learned about the Ionosphere and how in sky wave propagation the radio waves can be bent around the earth to achieve long distance communications. This month we will cover idea of NVIS.



When using a sky wave to communicate long distance, the signal must take off at a LOW angle from the antenna (30 degrees or less). This is so it can travel the maximum distance before it first arrives at the Ionosphere; however, this leaves a long gap before signal returns to the earth. The gap is called the "skip" or dead zone it is the space between where the ground wave ends and the sky wave returns to the earth.

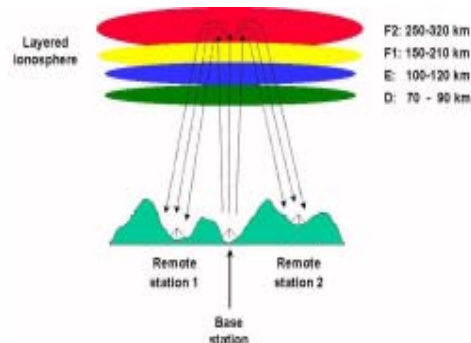


The advantage to a NVIS antenna is its ability to fill in the "skip" zone and with one F-Layer hop at angles up to 45 degrees you can talk to stations up to 400 miles away .. The angle from which the signal takes off at is HIGH typically 60 - 90 degrees. The radio wave returns from the Ionosphere at a similar angle, covering 0 - 250 miles and filling in this skip zone.

There are 2 disadvantages to a NVIS antenna. If you use too high of a frequency the radio waves will not reflect off of the ionosphere and will just head off into space. The other can be an advantage as it limits the distance you can effectively communicate.

The most important step is to CHOOSE THE CORRECT FREQUENCY (BAND) - go too high in frequency and your signal will pass through straight into space.

As we covered last month the ionosphere has several layers D, E, F1 & F2. The D and E layers for HF tend to absorb signals; while, the best returns come from the F2 layer. In order to work NVIS we need to know the frequency of the F2 layer (The Critical Frequency). The best frequency for NVIS work is around 10% below the Critical Frequency.



In practice the highest NVIS can reach up to 10 MHz (30m) band. The lowest can go down to 1.8 MHz (160m) band. 'Higher' frequency band during day, 'Middle' frequencies afternoon/evening,



Continued Page 19

**The Editor's
Corner
KC6QLS Paul**



Editor's Corner

Yes, some older Counterpoises are on the website and more to come. If you have any old pre 1980 or older ones sitting around, let me know. The question is when was the first Counterpoise done? Minutes were the first newsletter? How far do you go back with the club? Looking for some insight on days past. I would like to do a Retro Version of the Counterpoise, what are your thoughts?

Like to write? Got a column idea and you would like to write it? Send in a story and maybe it will be in the next Counterpoise.

**73 Paul Rios, KC6QLS
Editor**

Public Relations

The Library Display was at the Serra Mesa Library for the last two months. It will at a new location soon. It had good reviews and lots of people asked questions. If you have an old or newer radio that you let the smoke out of and you're not going to fix it, you can donate it to the Library Display.

Del Mar Fair is almost here. Our Club days are June 11th, 12th & 13th, but if you can't work them and you would like to help, please contact me, and I will place you on the list. There are two shifts 10 to 2 p.m. and 2 to 6 p.m., and you get a free pass to get in and a HF Radio will be there for you to work world wide on a G5RV Jr.

Some PR events are just around the corner, of course, Del Mar Fair, Field Day, and Fire Station 6 Open House just to name a few. Get the wooden keys ready and get set to copy some Code.

**73 Paul Rios, KC6QLS
Public Relations**

Volunteers Needed

Up Coming Events

See Club's Calendar on Page 4

E-Mail

Address for the Counterpose. Please submit all *Counterpoise* Mail to:

WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net

Prize Table Needs Help

Thank you for your contributions to the Prize Table! We still need your Support and Help or it may just end up a thing of the past. Please contact: Floyd Lang AF6BC at 303-6711.

Things to keep in mind

Get on the El Cajon ARC Reflector

To sign up visit:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/elcajonarc/>

You will get the latest news about The Club and things going on in the Ham world.

Quote of the Month

True love stories never have endings.

- Author: A Wise and Happy Person

JOKE

Q. Where do you find a one legged dog?

A. Where you left it

Lisie KI6EEK



THE WEED PATCH

March was a busy month in for us in El Cajon. A few of the things we attended to while in town were Club meetings, SANDARC meetings and Convention Committee meetings, antenna parties, lunches at Popeye's, pastries with the guys (and gals) at the Lemon Grove Bakery, helping Mike N6OPH out a few times at the Club shed, helping out as a VE at the El Cajon test site, medical appointments, Linda's chest pain scare (thankfully her ticker and related accessories are fine). Most importantly, while we were in town, we got to spend time with friends. Unfortunately, we didn't have time to visit with all of you, and those of you we were able to spend time with, the time wasn't nearly enough. Linda and I were too busy getting the trailer ready to roll to work the Equestrian Event in Lakeside...but listened to some of the communications going on. All I can say to those of you who participated is GOOD JOB!



As most of you know, for years, Linda has had horrible trouble with her back and her doctors in San Diego were just shooting in the dark trying to treat her pain. Unfortunately, they weren't trying to find the cause of her pain, but they were trying to treat the pain nonetheless. This made no sense to us. If we have problems with our antennas or radios, we track the problem down and fix it...which is what we expect from our medical professionals. Around the first of April, we decided we had to head to Hot Springs South Dakota where, like me, Linda can be treated at the VA Hospital.

We hit the road on April 7th, but before we pulled out of El Cajon, I made a phone call to renew our expired "Emergency Road Service" with the *Good Sam Club*...just in case! They accepted our payment and said our policy would be effective at midnight that same night. When I got off the phone, we headed east over the mountains toward Blythe CA where we'd turn north. The first couple hours of our trip went really well. I-8 to Descanso, through the Pine and Oak covered mountains of Cuyamaca State Park, hung a right in Julian on SR-78, and down the hill to the desert. We made it to just a few hundred yards from the S-2 turnoff and trouble started...we had a tire on our trailer blow out and it did a number on the rim before we got stopped (we just bought the set of tires in January in Quartzsite to replace our badly worn tires that we just bought (new) in October...the wheel bearings hadn't been tightened properly when we had them serviced in December). OK, no road service 'til midnight and we don't own a jack for the trailer. Our dilemma, do we wait until midnight or figure out a way to change the tire ourselves? It was only about 2pm and midnight was a long way away, so we decided we needed figure out a way to change the tire. Our trailer has dual axles, so, I tried a trick that I learned to install snow chains on 18 wheelers years ago. We put blocks on the ground in front of the good tire and pulled forward rolling the good tire on the blocks...it worked! Elevating the good axle raised trailer high enough to get the axle with the blown tire off the ground. Oops! We forgot to loosen the lug nuts before we raised the axle. With the blown tire back on the ground, we loosened the lug nuts...pulled back up on the blocks, put on the spare, off the blocks, tightened all the lug nuts and we were back on the road.



Continued Page 14

Chicken Noodle Soup for the Ham Radio Operator's Soul

ARRL Debuts
Television Drama Series

"Radio Rescue Newington" - Part II

He was an early President of the ARRL. The millions he amassed in a lifetime as a captain of industry left him unfulfilled. His passion for the hobby never left him. When he passed away, he left his millions to the League with strict instructions; "Grow this hobby." The Board of Directors accepted his challenge, and created the League's response to daunting challenges facing the non-technical Ham - "Radio Rescue Newington."

This month we continue our look at a new Ham television series '*Radio Rescue Newington*' - the latest tool in a League PR toolbox of strategies designed to grow the ranks of a hobby characterized by graying demographics. The brainchild of television producer I. Ron Skillet, the theme of the series is a hard-charging, action packed portrayal of a youth-oriented view of Amateur Radio, a proven formula to attract younger Hams to our hobby.

Electrical engineer and *Radio Rescue Newington* team member Dr. Phineas 'Stonecold' Strongrack is on-duty with *Radio Rescue Newington* Unit 3 as they are dispatched to the scene of a high-stakes weekend radio contest gone horribly wrong. A "multi-multi op" or group of Ham operators co-operating in a radio contest team, has suddenly come up against a daunting technical challenge. High SWR readings have suddenly plagued the competitive radio team, just as the contest started. From all appearances, the antennas appear to be normal. However, technical indications and highly complex analysis using a dizzying array of the latest electronic gadgetry

reveal a potentially deadly situation which could jeopardize thousands of dollars in high frequency transmitting equipment, and if not corrected quickly, could scuttle the team's chances for a "win" in a hugely popular contest. At stake the reputation and emotional well-being of several Ham Radio contesters. As the minutes tick by, the pressure on the young and relatively inexperienced Ham Radio team to disregard the high SWR readings and transmit on 20 meters is becoming almost irresistible.

The '*Radio Rescue*' team is pictured huddled in the underground command center, deep within ARRL headquarters in Newington, where the desperate 911 call to 'League Dispatch Central' is received. An emotional caller, obviously distraught, reports something is amiss with a 20 meter beam perched 72 feet above the contest QTH. Sensing impending catastrophe, the League dispatcher quickly dispatches '*Radio Rescue Newington*,' code blue, to the scene of enfolding disaster. Arriving on-scene and acting as point man, Strongrack is the picture of cool composure. Strongrack, an amateur wrestler, is tall, muscular, with chiseled good looks, and wavy gray hair. Among his team members, and accompanying him today are two, 20-something, platinum-blond actresses with more curves than a Smith chart. Strongrack and team members arrive just in time to reassure the struggling contesters. Series producer Skillet provides commentary. "Anything could happen. That's a tall height to climb, you know. Professional intervention is critical to success of this mission. Once an antenna develops a high SWR, all it takes is a moment of distraction. Hit the transmit switch, and your finals are *toast*."

Skillet continues, explaining how technology is critical to a successful radio rescue. "In a life and death situation for the transmitter, the power and speed of the antenna bridge is *Radio Rescue Newington's* greatest

Chicken Noodle Soup Continued

ally. The antenna bridge makes that link of survival stronger. We're dealing with a lot of changing conditions. This contest team is just lucky they held it together and didn't freak out. In a tense situation like that, the odds are so against these poor testers."

As Skillet is speaking, the team begins their work, a feverish pace, totally focused on the task at hand – salvaging the prospects of the contest team. First, in a tense, compelling emotional drama, members slowly and carefully disconnect the transmitter and insert the antenna bridge between the transmitter and antenna lead. Connections completed, an extensive, complex network of instrumentation is inserted between the antenna and transceiver, Real-time read out of *Radio Rescue* instruments are fed by link to Newington Headquarters where a crack team of electrical engineers huddle around a computer and strategize. Readings are compared. The electrical condition of the antenna diagnosed, solutions are considered. Finally, a grim-faced Strongrack confronts the testers. "It looks bad. We've got to take that antenna down, now. Indications are you've got a loose connection." "Oh my gosh..." gasps one tester. Another team member appears to faint, but is quickly revived. The team debates, but finally... consensus. The antenna *will come down* and they will attempt to salvage the contest.

Skillet explains that radio rescue teams train hard to master their rescue skills. "We practice the ordinary, mundane parts of our response routine, getting them down to a well-honed art." Earlier this day, a *Radio Rescue* team was seen in the parking lot of ARRL Headquarters, practicing getting in and out of the white panel van the team calls home". Skillet continues; "2-man teams work through countless mock rescue scenarios, so that when they face a real-life rescue, their technique is flawless and their timing is perfect. In Newington, use of the antenna bridge is part of the *Radio*

Rescue team member's DNA." Skillet adds "It's only as effective as the people behind the equipment. No amount of technology can replace a single *Radio Rescue Newington* team member. The team member's vigilance and knowledge of the bands is irreplaceable. Operator and equipment are an indispensable team."

Back at the tower site, the slow, laborious process of cranking down the 72 foot high antenna has begun. The tense moments tick by. One misstep by the Hams cranking the tower could spell disaster. Finally, after what seems like an eternity, the tower is fully retracted or "nested" and in position to be inspected by the highly trained *Radio Rescue Newington* team technicians. A ladder is positioned and secured next to the lowered tower section and ever so slowly, a *Radio Rescue* team member climbs to the top of the lowest section of the tower. An inspection is quickly conducted, the team member examining the junction of coax, balun, and antenna. Minutes tick by. The atmosphere in the shack is tense, with the assembled team members huddled around a video monitor displaying live-feed from the top section of the nested tower.

After what seems like an eternity, the lead team member atop the ladder calls out in a loud voice. "*Got it.*" Measurements confirm the successful completion of the technical fix. The contest team erupts with cheers and "high fives". But just a quickly, they realize the daunting challenge of the contest lies ahead. But first, the tower must be cranked up. Safety cables are attached, team members positioned, and the process is started. But wait! There appears to be a problem with one of the cables! As the cable is feeding out, it slips off it's track on the winch. For a moment, the entire *Radio Rescue Newington* team freezes. Realizing the potentially deadly consequences if the cable were to be damaged and too weakened to carry the load of the tower sections,



Continued Page 16

Even More Weed Patch



We were thoroughly enjoying the freedom of the open road and the brilliant orange of the Ocotillo plants...as far as the eye could see, when suddenly, a loud explosion! We both immediately looked in the right hand truck mirror and saw pieces of the tire we had just put on the trailer, flying through the air. That's right! Another blow out! Having already used our spare tire, and still no road service policy until midnight, we pulled as far off the road as we could to wait 'til morning. We had just spent Easter (and earthquake) with my daughter, Kori, and her family in Borrego Springs and our son-in-law Jamie mentioned that he'd bought trailer tires at the tire shop in Borrego Spring. Around 8: pm or so that evening, I sent him a text message to ask if the tires he got were any good. I immediately got a message back asking if we'd like him to bring us the spare tire off their trailer. We took him up on the offer and are extremely grateful for the offer. I told him where we were...well kinda...we were a little...well, maybe a lot further down the road than I thought, but he found us. Trailer back up on blocks, blown tire off, his spare on (fortunately the bolt pattern was the same as ours), down off the blocks and we drove to Borrego Springs to get new tires in the morning. Jamie followed us, just in case we had another flat.

After a good night's sleep, and a pot of coffee, we rolled in to the tire shop around 9:00 a.m. and were happy to have my Kori and our grand son's Brandon and Silas visit us while we were in the shop. Our plan was to buy two new tires and replace the bent rim (wheel). The owner of the

shop looked at the rim and told us that they could fix the rim and they had the tires we needed in stock. Sounded like we'd be able to save some money. They mounted and balanced the two tires and inspected our remaining tires...and it's a good thing they did. They found that two of the other three tires on the trailer had vertical splits in the sidewalls. Our plan of buying two tires ended up being a purchase of five.



That makes it 13 brand new tires we've bought for the trailer since October.



Lunch with Kori and the kids and we were back on the road. We had a good trip to Blythe and got there in time to take care of some business at the DMV. It was getting to be late afternoon so we decided to spend the night on BLM land in Quartzsite AZ (BLM or "Bureau of Land Management" land is Federal Land that can be used for camping up to 14 days free of charge). A half hour later, we were in our campsite setting up for the night. Our trailer has what's called a "slide out". A "slide" is kind of like an instant room addition. The "slide" in our trailer is 4 feet deep and 13 feet long. Mounted in the slide are outcouch and a table with a bench on each side...normally for eating meals, but, in our case, it's where our radio's and desktop computer and monitor are mounted. The slide is powered by an

12 foot wide living area in part of our trailer. The additional 4 feet of space doesn't sound like much, but it sure makes a difference. Well, when Linda pressed the switch to move the slide out, nothing happened...and I mean nothing at all. No click, no motor noise...nothing! As I learned a long time ago in the Army, "field expedient repairs" are sometimes necessary to get the job done. This was one of those times. Troubleshooting, I found no electrical current whatsoever at the slide motor under the trailer when Linda pressed the switch. It was quickly getting dark so I cut the wires to the motor, connected the power supply for our radios to the motor, and plugged the power supply in to our inverter and the motor worked. We were able to open the slide. Routing new wires and switch to the slide motor is another project I'll have to work on.

As if that weren't enough, a couple days later, the temperature was in the mid 80's so we decided to put our awning out for shade. It was a little breezy out and the shade and light wind felt good. We had a few light wind gusts during the early afternoon but nothing too strong...until the gust we didn't expect arrived. We were inside the trailer entering receipts in the computer and heard a horrible noise. We looked out the door of the trailer in time to see our awning being lifted by the wind and tossed on the roof of the trailer. Thankfully, that's where the awning rested, not on our truck which was parked on the opposite side of the trailer. "Shade Pro" (an RV awning company based in El Cajon) will be coming out to our campsite in the desert next week to replace the awning.



Just by chance, an incredible meeting! On April 11, 2010 we ran into town to do a little shopping and fill our water jugs with fresh water (water is only 5 cents per gallon here). While in town, we

hit the local eatery for breakfast and ran into a gentleman who's bicycling across America <http://www.crazyguyonabike.com/doc/ride4aamds> His name is Keith Jackson and he hit the road February 20th in St Augustine Florida. As of April 11th when we met, Keith had traveled, by bicycle, close to 2800 miles. With an ending point of San Diego, his dream ride will end soon...but after the talk Linda and I had with him, I don't think it will be his last. Why did he do it? This is how Keith explains it: "About 10 yrs ago I was on a local ride and met a couple people doing a ride from Washington state to Washington DC as part of a fund raiser, that planted the seed and the planning began...the goal, to ride across the country when I was 50. The plan changed many times over the years but the goal was the same. (I am 51, but close enough).

In 1997 my 10 yr old daughter was diagnosed with a rare bone marrow failure disease called aplastic anemia. She recovered and is doing great now but I've been involved with the Aplastic Anemia and MDS International Foundation (<http://www.aamds.org>) ever since. They were a tremendous help at the time and have been a great organization to work with. I hope to spread awareness of the disease along the way as well as meet patients, care givers and donors."



After we parted with Keith at the restaurant, we headed to the Dome Rock BLM camping area west of Quartzsite to see if we could find a campsite we liked better than the one we were in at Scaddan Wash BLM. We didn't find a better campsite at Dome Rock, but we did find an abandoned Gold Mine called the "Gold Eye Claim #4" which was mined for 63 years by Lehre Harold Erdman until his death in 1996. The mine is like a



Continued Page 18

From The Vice-President Continued

RV slabs, and tents will be made directly with me. I am to collect the funds and pay the camp manager directly and in turn hand over the keys to those who need them. This is the preferred method by the camp.

Now that the logo contest has been concluded, please order your Field Day T-Shirts and other club gear before 13 May (our next General Membership Meeting). I then have to turn in the order so that the shirts would be available in June for Field Day. I will distribute the t-shirts at Field Day or during the June General Membership Meeting. The timing is based on the arrival of the t-shirts from our vendor.

Kudos to Nick our Elmers Chairman. At the last General Membership Meeting, he gave instructions to new Hams on the basics of repeaters and 2m operation. As long as there is interest, Nick will continue these sessions during the break at our General Membership Meetings. This would also include help in programming hand held gear and other topics of interest to new and recently licensed Hams.

Don't forget to sign up for the Del Mar Fair which starts in June and concludes on 5 July. The SANDARC exhibit will be there for the entire run of the fair. Those who work the booth will get free admission to the fair so that they can check it out before or after their duty at the booth. I will be asking for signups at the May and June General Membership Meeting. You will be getting participation points for each shift that you work. See you all at the May meeting. Remember to stay "Radio Active."

Mike, N6OPH
Vice President
Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

NEW WAMO E-MAIL ADDRESS

WorkAllMembersOnly@gmail.com

Even More Chicken Noole Soup

the team's lead member orders the section to be lowered, reversing the track of the section. Minutes tick by as the tower is retracted, inch by inch. Finally, the tower is down and an inspection is made. The decision is made to continue erecting the tower.

But just as the tower is poised to resume it's journey skyward, chaos erupts within the shack as team members argue over who starts first in the contest. The charged atmosphere and hours of tension have taken a toll on the contesters. The angry, emotional outburst threatens to jeopardize the team's chances once again. However, *Radio Rescue Newington's* rigorous training, which includes psychological intervention, has taken into account the possibility of just such a breakdown. Quickly, *Radio Rescue* members separate the squabbling team and determine the source of the trouble. A game of "rock-scissors-paper" is initiated to set up a contest hierarchy, and peace is restored to the problem-plagued group. As the threat of physical violence is neutralized, the tower reaches the height of its position. Transceivers are tested and the *Radio Rescue* team begins packing up, as preparations are made to resume the contest effort.

But as the bone-weary rescue team departs for Newington, the radio crackles with an unusual plea for help. Join us next month when a Field Day crisis for an Amateur Radio club drives members to the emotional breaking point. Don't miss it!S!

Morris AZ6CW



Lighter Side Of Hamming

What is Memorial Day to You?

I have always had the upmost respect for my Grandfather. He served in the Navy all through WWII and retired as a Chief Warrant Officer (W-5) after many years of very active service. As a young man, I would try to talk to him about WWII and Korea War. A tear would run down his cheek and he always would find something else to talk about. The only thing he would tell me is that I needed to respect the service men and woman that lost their lives while serving the great country we call home and never take it for granted. He taught me to always stand up for the U.S. Flag as it goes down the Parade Route. I would always feel a little uneasy when we were the only ones standing. He would mumble, "You did not die in vain, you will never be forgotten". I asked him what he said and he would reply, "When you get older you will understand".

Well I got older, and when I was twenty-two and graduated from college my Grandfather took me down to the Navy Recruiter office and told me, "You need to serve your country and then you will understand where I'm coming from". I signed and my Navel Career started. I served abroad on some Tin Cans and saw the world. I met all kinds of people, some I wish I never met, and some are still my buddies to this day. I never saw any action like my Grandfather in WWII. We were always patrolling some port or giving some aid to disaster somewhere in the world. One of my Officers passed away when he fell into the ice cold water as he was transporting to another ship.

When I retired from the Navy my Grandfather took me aside and talked to me for hours about his Navel Career. He told me about all the people he knew and how he still carries the sense of loss for the ones that passed away during the wars. He told me about one that he will never forget. They both had their Amateur Radio License and just made Warrant Officer (W-1) at the time and were running to battle stations at the Battle of Tinian in the Pacific Theater, when

his buddy was killed when a piece of shrapnel hit him. The night before, they made plans to start a business when they got out. A tear ran down his cheek, now I knew what he meant every time I heard him say, "You did not die in vain, you will never be forgotten". It was like a light just turned on and everything about my Grandfather fell into place.

Right before my Grandfather passed away, we visited the Memorial in Washington DC, we found his buddy's name and said, "You will always be here, and you will be remembered for your unselfish sacrifice you gave for your country". Now it is my job to teach my children what Memorial Day is about. I share some of my Grandfather's stories about how to not take Our Country and way of life for granted. Most of all, never forget all the military men and woman that lost their lives while serving the great country we call home. STAND UP for the U.S.A. FLAG as it passes you by in a Parade. Also, be proud and say the "Pledge of Allegiance" with all your heart, after all it was someone in one of our services that gave their life so you can say it in English.

So what does Memorial Day mean to you? To me, it is a day to remember the greatest sacrifice our service men and woman gave us, Freedom! To this day, I guess I'm a lot like my Grandfather, his buddy and my Officer friend who will never be forgotten. So this Memorial Day, keep in mind, that what started as "Decoration Day" was first observed in Waterloo, New York on May 5th 1866 to commemorate all who have given their lives in the United States Military Service.

73

Have a Safe and Happy Memorial Day



Even More!!! Weed Patch

ghost town of sorts, but unlike many ghost towns we've visited, all the building structures are intact...except for their roofs. The mine is complete with an unattended museum of artifacts used by Mr. Erdman. Who knows how long ago his equipment was placed there, but his stuff is still there...along with a sign that simply asks that visitors "don't take these items"...and amazingly enough, no one has!



After we left the mine, we hit the hills doing a little 4 wheel drive off roading...oh, we did find a better campsite...complete with a shade tree.



In the last edition of Where's the Weed Patch, I mentioned that I'd write about Battery Equalization in this issue. There was so much to cover in this issue; Battery Equalization will have to wait until a future edition.

73 and Happy Trails...

Steve KO4QT and Linda KI6JUD

BE RADIO ACTIVE

What does that Mean?

B - Be Prepared

E - Enthusiastic

R - Respectful

A - Accountable

D - Dedicated

I - Initiative

O - Optimistic

A - ARRL

C - Clubs

T - Technology

I - Involved

V - Volunteer

E - Education



2010 ARRL Southwestern Division

Amateur Radio Convention

September 17, 18 & 19, 2010

San Diego, California

Four Points, By Sheraton Hotel

San Diego

For up to date information about the Convention, please visit us at the website:
www.sandarc.org/

See you at the Convention!

Ask an Elmer Continued

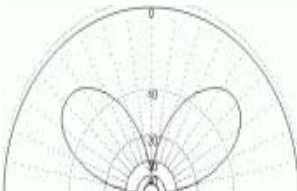
'Lower' frequencies at night. Frequencies also affected by time of year and period of sunspot cycle.

The Critical Frequency is the key to successful NVIS working. The Critical Frequency (for foF2) is the highest frequency at anyone time that a signal transmitted vertically will be returned to earth. Anything above this passes into Space and anything significantly lower will be absorbed by the D and E layers.

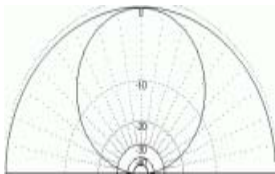
As we are interested in vertical signals for NVIS, then the value of the Critical Frequency (foF2) at anyone time is of great importance to us. How can we find or estimate foF2 ? <http://www.spacew.com/www/fof2.html>

What is the difference between a NVIS antenna and the faithful 1/2 wave dipole ham radio operators have been using for years?

The answer isn't simple NVIS is more of an idea than an antenna. The take off angle of a 1/2 wave dipole is used in both pictures below.



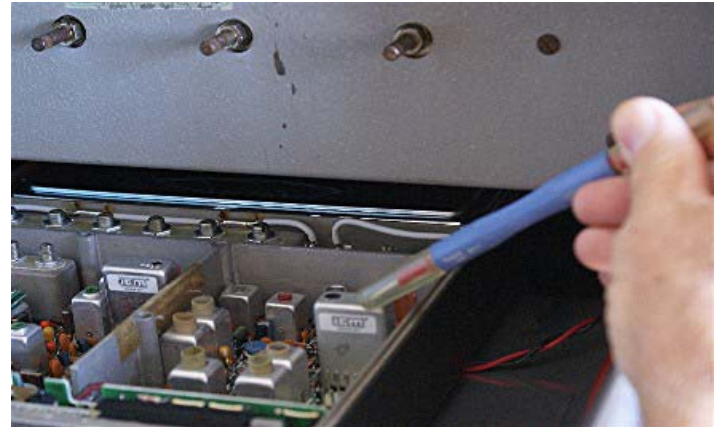
This drawing is a representation of the radiation pattern of an antenna at $\frac{1}{2}$ wavelength off the ground. Notice the lobe created by this antenna would cause the radio wave to head off at an angle.



This drawing is a representation of the radiation pattern of the same antenna a few feet off the ground. Notice the lobe created by this antenna pushes most of the radio wave straight up.

Next month will cover some of the antennas used for NVIS and home brewing a PSK31 interface using a NVIS antenna. 73 Elmer A. Ham

Some Club Photos



New Crystal for the 440 Box.
Thanks to: John Austin, WA6RLV, Alex Groza, WB6DTR and Gary Richardson, N6LRV



Len W5WFW ant the meeting doing the SANDARC Report



The New 2010 Board
"No RV's please"



From the Desk of Monica Zech PIO City of El Cajon

On May 6, 2010, the El Cajon Police Department will hold their next Crime Free Multi-Housing training program, a state-of-the-art crime prevention program designed to reduce crime, drugs, and gangs on apartment properties. Property owners, managers, leasing staff, maintenance personnel, and others in the management team are encouraged to attend this 8-hour training program. This free program is now in over 2000 cities throughout the United States and in seven different countries. The class will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Ronald Reagan Community Center in El Cajon.

Newly certified participants that pass the annual renewal Crime Prevention, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) inspection for the CFMH program, are now recognized at El Cajon City Council meetings. The Crime Free Multi-Housing Program consists of three training phases that are completed under the supervision of the El Cajon Police Department. The benefits of this program are reduced calls for service, a more stable tenant base, and it creates a sense of community for tenants living in an apartment environment. For more information or to register please call Samantha Scheurn-Hook at (619) 579-4227.

On Friday, May 21st, see the Tamburitians, America's Premier Folk Ensemble at the East County Performing Arts Center (ECPAC) in El Cajon. Hear the music, songs, and dances of Eastern Europe and neighboring cultures. The performance is at 7:30 p.m. at ECPAC, located at 210 E. Main Street. Reserved seats are \$24.00 and \$27.00. For tickets visit www.cytsandiego.org or call (619) 588-0206.

Mark Your Calendars For May/June:

May 9th is Mother's Day!

May 11 - Sector 7, El Cajon Police Community Forum - 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Bostonia Elementary School, 1390 Broadway.

May 16 - 22 - National Public Works Week!

May 18 - Sector 8, El Cajon Police Community Forum - 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church of El Cajon, 500 Farragut Circle.

May 20 - Tiny Tot May Festival - 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Renette Center, located at 935 S. Emerald.

May 21 - Bike To Work Day!

May 21 - Annual El Cajon Police Department Awards ceremony, 6:00 p.m., Ronald Reagan Community Center, 195 E. Douglas Avenue.

May 26 - Sector 9, El Cajon Police Community Forum - 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Meridian Elementary School, 651 S. Third.

May 31st - Memorial Day - City Offices will be closed in observance.

Monica Zech
Public Information Officer
City of El Cajon

Amateur Radio At Large

From Rich N6NKJ



Once again, it seems as though this year is going by at warp speed, but it feels as though I am standing still.

Our club meetings are attracting more and more people each month, and we have two or three visitors, who attend the meetings, join the club, but I do not see a lot of our members saying hi to the guests and new club members. We, and I include myself, just gather around those we feel comfortable with. So at our next club meeting, let's greet all those we don't know. If we want our club to continue to grow, let's not only be "Radio Active," but "Active Friendly" as well.

Many of us took part in the Quake net drill held on April 17 and 18, which Joseph, KI6TTF, ran. I did not take part on the Saturday drill but did on Sunday. Just as Joseph, KI6TTF finished asking if there was any emergency or priority traffic, Eric, W7EMW broke in with real priority traffic. He reported that the Edico building seemed to be on fire and asked if someone could call 911. I answered net control, and told Joseph I would. When I spoke with La Mesa Fire, they said they were responding to the fire.

Also, Michael KG6TDP, was coming down Cowels Mountain after being a relay station for Quake Net, and he and other hikers came across a mountain biker who had fallen and injured his ankle. Michael and others helped the biker down the mountain. If you want to take part in the next Quake Net, you can do so on July 21 at our Field Day site.

With all of the earthquakes happening I CAN NOT understand why more of you, our club members, are not getting involved with some sort of emergency communications; it could save your families' lives or your neighbors.

Once again it is time for the Del Mar Fair, and there are many chances for YOU, our club members, to man the SANDARC booth, so why not get out of your comfort zone and volunteer to help this year. Speaking of getting involved, there are many club activities that take place all year long

and could use your help in spreading the word about Amateur Radio.

It was great to see a former long time member of our club at our last meeting; Bob Rover, KB6DYM, was in town for a short time, and took time to come by and say hello. We had a great time talking about "the good old days. Thanks Bob for a walk down memory lane.

Once again, our club president had to stop two or three times during the meeting to tell a GROUP of people in the back of the room to "please listen up." WHY? And yes I have been guilty of doing the same thing, but I now ask the person talking to me to step outside and talk so we do not bother other people listening to what is going on.

Summer will be here before long and that means FIRE DANGER! And those of us in the VIP Red Flag Patrol need to be ready to go if and when Roxanne needs us. We also need more people who are retired to volunteer for this vital program; the reason why? Many of the people in the Red Flag Patrol program work and cannot respond during the week. So I would like to see some of you, who are retired, join us in helping CAL FIRE in their job of keeping our county safe from any more destructive wild land fires.

That is it for now, but, as always, remember our brave men and women of our armed forces, who risk their lives for us every day.

Rich, N6NKJ



Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon
P.O. Box 50
El Cajon, CA 92022



Issue Date 5/2010



**For Ham Radio
Classes
EXTRA License Starts
Soon**

**Please Contact:
Mike Maston
N6OPH
(619) 296-9067**

**Please Visit Our Website at
www.WA6BGS.org**



VEC Testing Sites

1 st Saturday:	El Cajon 10:00 am First Lutheran Church of EC 867 South Lincoln Ave.
2 nd Saturday:	Carlsbad 9:30 am Carlsbad Safety Center Orion Way Carlsbad
3 rd Saturday:	North Park 10:00 am North Park Recreation Center 4044 Idaho Street San Diego
4 th Saturday:	Chula Vista 8:30 am Fire Station #7 1640 Santa Venetia Chula Vista
5 th or last Saturday:	Escondido 9:00 am LDS Church 1917 East Washington St.

To make advance reservations or to find out more info
from the site captain, please call 465-EXAM (3926)